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July 30, 2013

The Honorable Randy Richardville, Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Government Operations Committee  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: *Support for House Bill 4714 (S-7) Draft 3*

Dear Chairman Richardville and Members of the Committee,

We are writing on behalf of AARP Michigan to express our support for House Bill 4714 (S-7) Draft 3, the *Healthy Michigan* plan. This bill would let Michigan residents with incomes up to 133% of the poverty level qualify for health coverage under Medicaid, and establish Michigan-specific reforms to ensure cost-effectiveness and better health outcomes.

This legislation is particularly important to people who are over age 50 but too young for Medicare. During Michigan's historic economic recession, many older workers lost their jobs and their employer-sponsored insurance coverage. Older adults are particularly vulnerable to deterioration in function and health status if they don't have health coverage, and that increases their need for more costly health care and long term care in the future. Passage of this legislation would provide health care to an estimated 75,000 uninsured Michigan residents between the ages of 50 and 64.

The Healthy Michigan plan will allow Michigan to begin to rein in healthcare costs for the future. We urge you to vote yes on HB 4714 because it's the common sense, fiscally responsible thing for our state to do. If you have any questions or if there is further information we can provide, please feel free to contact our Manager of Advocacy, Lisa Dedden Cooper, at 517-267-8923 or [lcooper@aarp.org](mailto:lcooper@aarp.org).

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Morrison  
State Director

Thomas E. Kimble  
State President

*AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan 501(c)(4) social welfare organization that advocates on issues that matter to people aged 50 and over, and their families. More than 1.4 million Michigan citizens are AARP members.*